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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we rejoice in the visible manifestation of Your love. You save us from ourselves, opening to us paths of deliverance from narcissistic detours. When we go astray, You see and save us. You came to our world to free us from sin's shackles, providing us with the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Great and marvelous is Your love.

Lord, permit our Senators this day to reflect Your love. Use them to bring Your light and truth to our Nation and world. May they do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. Inspire them to dwell so fully in the mystery of Your heavenly love that they will love others as You have first loved them.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. today to allow for the weekly con-

ference meetings; further, that the time during the recess count postcloture on the McConnell amendment No. 2266, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate continues to move closer and closer to passage of a bipartisan, multiyear highway bill. The legislation we advanced again last night is fiscally responsible. It will not raise taxes by a penny. It will give State and local governments the kind of stability they need to plan longer term projects for America's roads and bridges.

The bill couldn't have advanced as far as it has already without a lot of very hard work from a lot of dedicated Members. I want to thank each of them. Doing the right thing for the American people has meant taking some bruises. But the American people sent us here to do some challenging things. They deserve our best efforts on their behalf. I am proud to see the Senate continue along this difficult but promising road.

Success was never assured at the beginning of this process. It wasn't assured even yesterday, and we are not done yet. The important thing is that the Senate is now on the verge of passing a multiyear highway bill. The Senate is now positioned to pass another important piece of legislation for the American people. With cooperation, the Senate may still be able to consider more germane ideas to improve the bill even further. But the bottom line is this: If Republicans and Democrats resolve to keep working hard for the American people, we will get this done.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, in the western part of the United States, it is now 8:05 in the morning. I am sure as one of these young girls is rushing to go out to school—let's assume she is an African-American girl—she is telling her mother, her dad or her teacher what she wants to be when she grows up. Maybe she wants to be a veterinarian, a teacher, a nurse, maybe even President of the United States or maybe run some company.

The little girl is going to be shocked if her parents said: You can do it—any of those jobs—but remember that you will have to work twice as hard—at least twice as hard—to earn the same amount of money that your male colleagues do or your brother does or Billy, the neighbor, does. How would that little girl respond? She would probably exclaim: That is not fair. She would be right. It isn't fair. It is an injustice.

Earlier this spring—April 14 to be exact—we recognized Equal Pay Day, marking how far into this year the average woman has to work to earn what a man, for the exact same job, earned last year. This pay disparity between men and women doing the same work is known as the wage gap. On average, an American woman makes 77 cents for every dollar that their male colleague makes for doing the exact same work. As bad as that is, the wage gap is even much worse if you are a woman of color.

Today is Black Women's Equal Pay Day, a day that symbolizes how far into 2015 African-American women must work to earn what their male counterparts earned in 2014. What this means is she worked all of last year and now up until this day to basically

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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